



**Afro-Colombians in Humanitarian Crisis and Civil disobedience.
Civic strike "To live with dignity and in peace in the territory" Buenaventura and the Colombian Pacific**

June 3, 2017

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD), a platform of more than 520 organizations that defend democracy and human rights, Official Member of the Civil Society Forum of the Organization of American States (OAS) and regional chapter of the World Movement for Democracy (WMD): urges in the first instance the Colombian Government at the head of President Juan Manuel Santos to guarantee the life and the right to demonstration and peaceful protest expressed in the Civic Parade in Buenaventura "To Live Dignity and Peace in the Territory" and other populations in the Colombian Pacific coast.

The REDLAD, expresses its deep concern against the actions of lethal violence and repression by the police and the mobile anti-riot Squadron (ESMAD) on peaceful protests and demonstrations in the city of Buenaventura. The imminent military deployment, of alleged undercover police (ESMAD) ordered by the Government, represents a serious threat to protesters and it does not guarantee their legitimate right to protest and civil disobedience set forth in the Constitution; such acts undermine the protection of public safety and the guarantee of human rights.

Faced with this situation of abuse to the community and demonstrators of the Civic and Pacific Strike in Buenaventura, from REDLAD we urgently call on the Colombian authorities to comply with their international obligations in human rights, just as we urge Colombia to guarantee the life and personal integrity of the demonstrators and to exclude the use of the indiscriminate force of ESMAD and other police or military bodies.

The REDLAD, strongly rejects all forms of violence and calls for finding solutions within the framework of the purposes of the civic strike Committee and the Colombian Government and that through substantive dialogue will lead to a negotiation and agreements that keep clear of Buenaventura and the Colombian Pacific of a major humanitarian Crisis; derived from the historical and structural abandonment of the State, where basic needs and social determinants such as access to drinking water, health and decent hospitals, education, employment among others are of particular lack in this region.

Similarly, the REDLAD, urges the Colombian Government to the enforcement and implementation of the peace agreement, specifically the chapter ethnic, the protection of the territory, the right to free and informed prior consultation.

Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Democracia (RedLad).